



STATE OF INDIANA  
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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**For Immediate Release**

**Police Arrest Five, Cite Hammond Bar During Inspections**

**HAMMOND, Ind. (March 25)** – Indiana State Excise Police officers inspected several bars with the Hammond Police Department Friday night, resulting in five arrests and one bar being cited for allowing a minor to loiter.

Police conducted their compliance checks at several Hammond bars Friday night after citizen complaints alleging gang activity, drug use and minors consuming alcoholic beverages.

At Porters Tap, 6405 Kennedy Avenue, Hammond Police arrested Markest Hunter, 24, of Illinois, after finding marijuana in his possession.

At Aquavor, 5260 Hohman Avenue, Hammond Police found Luis Ozuma, 19, Francisco Bernal, 20, and Francisco Miranda, 19, all from Hammond, to be unlawfully inside an alcoholic beverage establishment. The minors were arrested for being in a tavern and Aquavor was cited for allowing minors to loiter by State Excise Police.

At Jason's Bar & Grill, 3949 Hohman Avenue, Hammond Police arrested Michael Cox, 24, after finding marijuana and cocaine on his person.

Excise officers will continue to conduct random compliance inspections with Hammond Police throughout the year to promote public safety.

Anyone with information on any unlawful activity at any alcoholic-beverage business may contact the local Excise Police district office at: <http://www.in.gov/atc/iseip/2379.htm>.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

*All criminal and administrative-law defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*